

SITUATION REPORT NO. 20
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: APRIL 14, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: To date, seven people have died as a result of problems created by the winter storm and flooding. It was incorrectly reported that eight people had died.

A volunteer with sandbagging operations in Grand Forks sustained a bruised ankle when his foot became temporarily wedged between two pallets.

3. DAMAGES: The Red River of the North at Fargo rose to a new flood-of-record level on April 14 as the river continues to remain high from spring runoff, overland flooding and inflows from tributaries. Other locations where flood-of-record levels have been exceeded include the Red River at Halstad, MN, and the Sheyenne Diversion at West Fargo. Upstream from Fargo, the Red River at Wahpeton is anticipated to crest a second time between 18.5 feet to 19.5 feet. The National Weather Service expects the river to begin a very slow fall. The status of North Dakota rivers and tributaries above flood stage are as follows:

Station	Flood 4/14/97	24-hr	Flood of
	Stage	Difference	Record
<u>Red River</u>			
Wahpeton	10 ft.	17.88 ft.	+1.19 ft.
Hickson	30 ft.	36.33 ft.	+0.31 ft.
Fargo	17 ft.	37.68 ft.	+0.23 ft.
Halstad, MN	24 ft.	39.25 ft.	+0.97 ft.
East Grand Forks	28 ft.	43.67 ft.	+0.89 ft.
Oslo, MN	28 ft.	(Not available)	38.6 ft.
Drayton	32 ft.	34.03 ft.	(Not available)
<u>Wild Rice</u>			
Abercrombie	10 ft.	22.3 ft.	+1.60 ft.
<u>Maple River</u>			
Enderlin	6 ft.	10.50 ft.	+0.64 ft.

Station	Flood 4/14/97 Stage	24-hr Stage Difference	Flood of Record
<u>Sheyenne River</u>			
Cooperstown 12 ft.	17.19 ft.	+0.02 ft.	18.69 ft.
Lisbon	11 ft.	12.53 ft.	+1.21 ft.
Kindred	16 ft.	21.48 ft.	+0.02 ft.
<u>Sheyenne Diversion</u>			
Horace	23 ft.	23.64 ft.	-0.01 ft.
West Fargo	16.5 ft.	22.86 ft.	+0.13 ft.
Harwood	884 ft.	891.68 ft.	-0.07 ft.
<u>Souris River</u>			
Bantry 11 ft.	12.96 ft.	-0.04 ft.	14.6 ft.
Westhope	10 ft.	10.92 ft.	-0.02 ft.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) reports four sites along state and federal highways have been closed to traffic because of flooding. They include: I-29 at Harwood, where traffic is being rerouted to N.D. Highways, 1, 18 and 200A; N.D. Highway 200 at the Red River Bridge near Halstad, MN; N.D. Highway 127, south of Wahpeton; and, N.D. Highway 18 at the South Dakota line, where traffic has been detoured to I-29. N.D. DOT crews have marked the following locations where water is flowing over the highways: three locations at N.D. Highway 13, including a five-mile stretch near Wahpeton where motorists must follow a pilot car, the west edge of LaMoure, and three miles east of Wishek; N.D. Highway 11 at the Minnesota line; N.D. Highway 3, south of Ashley; N.D. Highway 56, south of Gackle; N.D. Highway 46, west of Kindred; N.D. Highway 1 at two locations, north of the South Dakota state line, and west of Ludden; and, N.D. Highway 2, west of Devils Lake.

Kidder County officials reported that an ambulance was delayed for 10 hours during the April 5-6 blizzard while responding to a heart attack victim. The ambulance was assisted by a N.D. DOT snow plow, a caterpillar and a four-wheel drive tractor. The man remains hospitalized.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross (ARC) Help-Line number has changed to (800) 272-2684. On April 12, the ARC had 59 flood victims staying at a shelter at the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton.

The U.S. Coast Auxiliary provided a communications van to Coast Guard units assigned to Fargo in support of flood-fight operations.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has expanded FEMA-DR-1174-ND to include 13 additional counties in the Public Assistance Program. These counties include: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, McKenzie, Mercer, Oliver, Sioux, Slope, and Stark. All North Dakota counties are now eligible for Public Assistance.

The N.D. National Guard is utilizing 167 pieces of equipment, from generators to helicopters, to support flood preparation and response efforts. Equipment requirements have included 38 support vehicles; 34 dump trucks; 27 cots; 24 tractor-trailers; 13 generators ranging in size from five kilowatts to 200 kilowatts; nine life preservers; four 600-gallon-per-minute (gpm) pumps; four fork lifts; three D-7 dozers; two helicopters; two cranes; two loaders; one C-12 airplane; one sandbag machine; one rotary snow blower; one auger attachment; and, one 1 ½ ton trailer.

N.D. DOT assets committed to flood-fight efforts include: four trucks and personnel to assist the communities of Casselton, Mapleton, Kindred and Wahpeton with sandbagging operations; seven variable message boards used to alert motorists to flooded areas, four of which are located on I-94 and three in the Fargo and Wahpeton areas; three generators; five single-axle dump trucks and one tandem truck and staff for hauling sandbags for the city of Grand Forks. In addition, the N.D. DOT Fargo District has hired six contractors to assist with clearing ice jams near Fargo, Lisbon and Casselton, building dikes in Casselton, ditch cleaning in the Fargo and Wahpeton areas, and supplying signs for detours.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is operating around the clock staffed with representatives of state and federal agencies responding to the flood and winter storm disaster. State agencies involved in flood-fight operations include the N.D. Division of Emergency Management, the N.D. State Water Commission, the N.D. Highway Patrol, the Army and Air National Guard, the N.D. DOT and the North Dakota Civil Air Patrol. Federal resources include the U.S. Department of Transportation, FEMA, the Defense Coordinating Officer and Defense Coordinating Element for the Fifth Army, and Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers representing the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

Agencies augmenting efforts by the State EOC include the Governor's Office, State Radio Communications, the N.D. Department of Human Services, the N.D. Department of Health, the N.D. Department Agriculture, N.D. Agricultural Statistics Service, the N.D. Extension Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Forest Service, Minot and Grand Forks Air Force Bases and the Weather Service.

The State Coordinating Officer has requested that the N.D. Agriculture Department activate its Emergency Agriculture Task Force to address livestock losses and other agriculture problems resulting from the winter storm and flooding disaster.

A U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue helicopter team evacuated four Harwood area residents whom flood waters stranded on April 12. The helicopter team also flew emergency blood supplies from Fargo to Grand Forks on April 12 after inundated roads prevented timely delivery by ground transportation. Other missions included a "white sheet survey" where Cass County residents were asked to lay a white sheet outside their homes if they were stranded by flood waters and were requesting evacuation. The helicopter team did not spot any white sheets during an aerial reconnaissance conducted April 13. The Coast Guard

is staging operations at the N.D. Air National Guard facility during the flood and storm disaster.

The first 25 Disaster Housing Program checks for flood-related damages have been processed and mailed to North Dakotans filing applications for Individual Assistance programs. This program provides grants to homeowners and renters for housing repair or rental assistance.

North Dakota's Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Coordinating Officer submitted an IFG Administrative Plan on April 12 for review by FEMA. The state Grant Coordinating Officer and the FEMA IFG Coordinator are developing procedures to ensure appropriate processing of individuals' applications.

The North Dakota Civil Air Patrol (CAP) pilots have flown 23 missions since the flood and winter storm began, including eight missions during the April 12-13 weekend. On April 12, a CAP air crew videotaped flood damages for Cass County officials. Air crews took officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Cass County, N.D. State Water Commission and Logan County on surveillance flights of flood-damaged areas. Three flights were conducted for media representatives also viewing damages.

The N.D. Highway Patrol has upgraded operations at two North Dakota weigh stations to 24 hours to reroute traffic around inundated sites and to enforce an 80,000-pound weight restriction. The stations are the Buxton station for southbound traffic on I-29, and the West Fargo station for westbound traffic on I-94.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: North Dakota residents with disaster-related damages are able to apply for all individual assistance programs by contacting the National Teleregistration Center (NTC) at (800) 462-9029.

The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director